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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven Reppert et al.
Serial No. : 09/226,046
Filed : January 5, 1999
Title : HIGH-AFFINITY MELATONIN RECEPTOR AND USES THEREOF

Art Unit : 1646
Examiner : M. Pak

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed February 27, 2001, the advisory action mailed December 10, 2001, and the telephonic interview of February 14, 2002 (involving the Examiner, his Supervisor, Janis K. Fraser, and Andrew W. Torrance), and pursuant to the notice of appeal filed by Applicants on August 24, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 34, 37-52, 54, and 56-77 without prejudice.

Amend claims 33, 35, and 53 as follows:

33. A method of testing a candidate compound for the ability to act as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor ligand, said method comprising:

a) contacting said candidate compound with a mammalian cell which expresses on its surface a recombinant high-affinity melatonin receptor protein or melatonin binding fragment thereof, said cell having been transfected with an expression vector encoding said receptor protein or fragment thereof;

b) measuring intracellular cAMP concentration in said cell; and

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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